



Office of Mayor Jerry Sanders

July 6, 2006

FACT SHEET

MAYOR SANDERS ANNOUNCES HIGH-TECH ADVANCES FOR FIRE AND POLICE

I-ZONE PLAN HELPS FIREFIGHTERS PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE EMERGENCIES; SMART PHONES LINK OFFICERS TO DATA QUICKER

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced two recent high-tech advances being implemented by the City's Fire and Police departments. The Fire-Rescue Department is in the process of adding state-of-the-art I-Zone Plan software to its information system while the Police Department is handing out PC Smart phones to its officers.

Use of these tools will help make the firefighters and police officers more efficient and effective in carrying out their duties. Their implementation represents another step in the continuing effort by the Mayor to upgrade technology to provide better service to the people of San Diego.

What Is The I-Zone (Wildfire Interface Zone) Plan?

Following the Cedar Fire of 2003, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department began developing comprehensive plans to provide firefighters with additional planning tools that would help them save lives and property during major wildfires.

One such tool is the Interface Zone Plan (I-Zone), a pre-fire planning tool for wildfire emergencies in target hazard areas. The data collected as part of this plan is placed in mobile data computers installed in fire vehicles that respond to calls for assistance.

- I-Zone plans are based on a risk-benefit analysis system used by the U.S. Army in Iraq to determine strategies and actions in attacking the enemy.
- In San Diego the "enemy" is fire—specifically wildfires that pose a threat to 23 areas of the City known as Wildfire Interface Zones (or simply "I-Zones")

Some of the larger of the 23 I-Zones, are

- Tierrasanta
- Scripps Ranch
- Los Penasquitos Canyon
- Sorrento Valley
- Otay Mesa
- Mission Valley

These I-Zone plans take into account the unique geographic characteristics of these areas such as:

- terrain
- vegetation
- types of businesses and homes
- hazardous materials
- roads in and out of the areas
- water supply

How Is The I-Zone Plan Implemented?

The plan being implemented uses aspects of military programs to conduct risk analysis and assessments of conditions in order to develop a risk matrix. This information, in digital format, is available to units responding to emergencies through the City's computer aided dispatch center, which is then transmitted from the dispatch center to the responding vehicle's mobile data computer.

This information includes:

- risk assessment
- topographical and roadway maps
- helispots available for use by CopterOne

The information is accessible through "layers" on the vehicle's screen so that the user can toggle back and forth between screens, accessing the most useful layer necessary.

This information is currently available on mobile data computers (MDCs) that have just recently been installed on all fire engines, trucks and vehicles used by battalion chiefs. Additional I-Zone information—such as evacuation routes, staging areas and command post locations—will soon be downloaded into the MDCs.

How Does The I-Zone Plan Help Fight Wildfires?

- Instantly provides firefighters with the vital data and risk analysis they need to know so they can develop the most efficient strategies and plans to attack a wildfire.
- Gives responding units the same information that generally is familiar only to the local fire company.
- Enhances the department's ability to predict where problems might arise.
- Provides information about how severe the problem might become.

The Police Department's Use of Smartphones:

In November 2005, the San Diego Police Department's Information Technologies Group began replacing 168 in-car Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) with "ruggedized" Panasonic laptop computers. During that project a parallel pilot project was launched to review the possibility of giving the City's police officers hand-held pocket PC devices.

In some cases this smaller, sleeker units could replace the bulkier laptops that required extensive energy sources and give officers the same data service in their shirt pockets with minimal needs for recharging.

As a result of the pilot project, the San Diego Police Department has purchased 153 Broadband Access Pocket PC phones, also know as Smartphones. The first initial rollout of these PC phones went to officers who could trade out the mobile computer terminals in their police vehicle.

So far, more than 75 field officers have been issued the Smartphone.

What's So Special About Smartphones?

Utilizing message switch services within the secured SDPD network, with Smartphones officers in the field have the ability to:

- check license plates
- run DMV records
- access mug shot photo databases
- interface with online warrant systems in real time, on the spot.

Smartphone business tools include:

- wireless Outlook email
- calendaring
- tasks
- notes
- contacts
- access to programs such as
 - Word
 - PowerPoint
 - Excel.
- a built-in 1-mega pixel camera that gives officers the ability to snap pictures on scene or take video clips
- a voice recording device to allow officers to record conversations

Does The Smartphone Save the City Money?

The cost savings to the Police Department is significant. **The average Smartphone is approximately \$350, while the cost of each mobile computer terminal is \$6,000.**

Additionally, monthly service costs for each end user's cell phone, pager and city data and voice network chargers are all consolidated into a single negotiated per-device rate, which is also more cost efficient.